

**FCO FOI reference: 0631-17 – Digest of Information to be released**

DipTel No 1605238 – Russia: GREAT branded mission to Tartarstan (07/11/2016)

*Summary*

Confirms value of ... forging consular links in World Cup cities.

*Detail*

The Embassy's consular team joined me to help prepare possible support for British football fans if a home team plays in Kazan during the 2018 World Cup.

*Consular*

Deputy Minister Shaykhutdinov and the local World Cup Organising Committee Chair were open to further contacts, building on the co-operation established during last year's Liverpool match. The Hungarian Consul responded favourably to our suggestion that we use some of their office space during the World Cup to support a field deployment team, if home teams play in Kazan.

DipTel No 1605874 – Russia: Sport: Russia tests positive, again (12/12/2016)

*What does this mean for Russian sport?*

Russian media have been keen to play down possible implications for the 2018 World Cup, although McLaren's report includes 30 Russian footballers suspected of doping.

*Comment*

However, the Kremlin needs Russia's sporting rehabilitation, especially with ... the World Cup looming in 2018.

DipTel No 1701239 – Russia: GREAT branded mission to Krasnodar and Sochi (27/03/17)

*Summary*

Confirms value of ... developing consular links in World Cup cities.

*Detail*

Consular teams built links with the local World Cup organising committee.

*Consular*

The Consular team established contact with key officials ahead of the 2018 World Cup.

*Comment*

Increasing recognition from local politicians in World Cup 2018 cities that Russia needs to work with foreign partners to prepare for the event. There are signs that ticket sales will struggle, partly due to Russia's poor international reputation including for hooliganism.